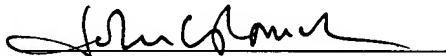


**REMARKS**

The application was filed August 19, 2003. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a), the specification is hereby amended to make a proper reference to the prior applications, including all applications in the chain of priority. Entry of the amendment and issuance of a corrected filing receipt are respectfully requested.

With this response, the application is believed to be in condition for early action on the merits. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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December 18, 2003  
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